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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Mahlwinkel Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 16 April to early May 1953DATE PREPARED 8 June 1953REFERENCES 25X1APAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 15 April 1953, no change was observed on the status of Mahlwinkel airfield. The grass sown on the field had not come up possibly because of excessive use of fertilizer. The surface of the field was so firm that trucks did not leave any traces. After several days of dry weather, however, the field was covered with a layer of dust which was blown off by strong wind.
2. Since mid-April, the Soviet detail has been quartered again in the hunters lodge. Apparently more personnel were quartered at the field than in the preceding year. Captain Laurin (fnu) was again observed to be the chief of the detail. The rail shipment from Saxony with the Soviet detail also carried 6 tractors and several trucks, as well as 20 civilian workers, who allegedly belonged to the Dresden Bauunion. The civilian guards at the field were replaced by Soviets who guarded the billets and the field and patrolled the area at irregular intervals.
3. In early May, source observed that the western part of the field was poorly covered with grass. Apparently no grass had been sown in the eastern section. The Soviets spread fertilizer over the entire area of the field in early May. Large clouds of dust developed at the field in dry weather in spite of the grass cover. Source did not observe that construction material arrived at the field.

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Comment. On 27 December 1952, the Soviet construction detail left Mahlwinkel airfield which, subsequently, was guarded by two civilians. The field is apparently serviceable for conventional aircraft in spite of defects in the surface of the field. It is possible that these defects are to be eliminated by the newly arrived construction detail.

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